**Ban on Import of Toxic Chinese Toys**

†764.SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some countries have imposed ban on Chinese toys because of use of toxic substance in them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken concrete steps to create awareness amongst consumers about buying indigenous goods, and threats of buying foreign goods particularly Chinese goods;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) This information is not maintained in this Department.

(c) to (e) Department of Consumer Affairs has undertaken multi media publicity campaign regarding consumer awareness under which efforts are being made to educate consumers about their rights and grievance redressal mechanism. Specific focus has been given to spread awareness regarding purchase of goods that are based on standardization such as ISI, Agmark, etc.

**Price rise of Sugar**

765. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that price of sugar is rising during the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to control it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Due to lower production of sugarcane and sugar in the country during the current sugar season 2008-09, sugar prices in the open market have increased. The Central Government has taken a slew of measures to check the price hike as indicated below:

(i) Stock-holding and turnover limits on sugar have been imposed *vide* Notifications dated 09.03.2009 and 12.03.2009 for a period of four months *i.e.* upto 08.07.2009. The Government has since decided to extend these limits by another six months, *i.e.*, upto 08.01.2010;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi